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FOOD ASSISTANCE FACT SHEET AFGHANISTAN

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Decades of conflict, sustained flows of returnees, civil unrest, insurgent activity and recurring natural disasters contribute to humanitarian need in Afghanistan. Disaster-affected and food-insecure communities require continued life-saving food and nutrition assistance.

SITUATION

- Afghanistan faces severe drought conditions in at least 20 of its 34 provinces. More than 10.5 million people are affected by drought, including 3.5 million people in need of emergency food and nutrition assistance, the Food Security Cluster reports. As of mid-March, more than 62,000 Afghans had returned from Iran and Pakistan since January, and approximately 46,000 people were internally displaced due to conflict and natural disasters, according to the UN.
- Conflict, drought and below-average remittances are driving atypically high lean season needs, the [Famine Early Warning Systems Network \(FEWS NET\)](#) reports, as households struggle to access livelihood opportunities and afford enough to eat. As a result, Crisis (IPC 3) and Stressed (IPC 2) levels of acute food insecurity persist throughout most of Afghanistan.* In particular, more than 800,000 undocumented Afghan returnees continue to face Crisis levels of acute food insecurity as of March, FEWS NET reports.
- Humanitarian food assistance is preventing more severe levels of food insecurity in the provinces worst-affected by drought, including in Badghis, Ghor and Herat provinces. The April–July wheat and barley harvest season will likely improve food access and household-level income, FEWS NET projects. However, Stressed and Crisis outcomes will likely persist through at least September 2019 due to sustained displacement and reduced labor opportunities across the country.

*The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a standardized tool that aims to classify the severity and magnitude of acute food insecurity. The IPC scale, which is comparable across countries, ranges from Minimal (IPC 1) to Famine (IPC 5).



FOOD FOR PEACE CONTRIBUTIONS

TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS PER FISCAL YEAR (FY)

U.S. DOLLARS METRIC TONS*

FY 2019	\$47.1 million	—
FY 2018	\$73.9 million	34,666 MT
FY 2017	\$68.4 million	36,680 MT

*Metric tonnage does not reflect funding for vouchers or cash transfers

RESPONSE

- In FY 2019, USAID's Office of Food for Peace (FFP) supports the [UN World Food Program \(WFP\)](#) to provide emergency food assistance—including regionally sourced in-kind food aid and cash transfers for food—to vulnerable, drought-affected people across Afghanistan. FFP also contributed 300 metric tons of high-energy biscuits to support drought-affected households with children and pregnant and lactating women. In February, WFP assisted nearly 1.8 million people across 19 provinces in Afghanistan.
- FFP partners with the [UN Children's Fund \(UNICEF\)](#) to provide emergency nutrition assistance in Afghanistan. With FFP support, UNICEF provides ready-to-use therapeutic foods to treat children suffering from severe acute malnutrition countrywide, in addition to nutrition performance monitoring, supervision of malnutrition service delivery and supply chain management training to build the capacity of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and government partners.
- In FY 2018, FFP funded an NGO to provide cash transfers for food to approximately 3,000 food-insecure households in drought-affected Daykundi Province.



Photo: An internally displaced child eats a WFP-provided high-energy biscuit in Afghanistan's Faryab Province.